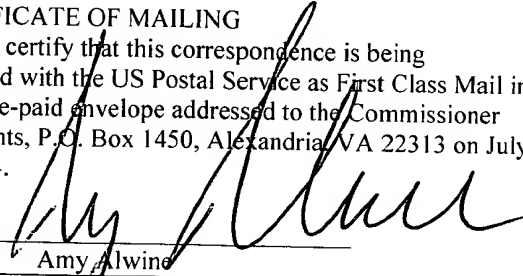


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

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| <p>In re application of:<br/>BASOL et al.<br/>Serial No.: 09/961,193<br/>Filed: September 20, 2001<br/>Title: Plating Method and Apparatus for Controlling Deposition on Predetermined Portions of a Workpiece</p> | <p>Group Art Unit: 1753<br/>Examiner: Wong, Edna<br/>Docket: 042496/0269244<br/>NT-225-US</p> <p>CERTIFICATE OF MAILING<br/>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as First Class Mail in a postage-paid envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on July 15, 2004.</p> <p>Signed: <br/>Amy Alwine</p> |
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Office action mailed April 15, 2004 with a shortened statutory period for response no later than July 15, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 9 of this paper.